



Character Education Partnership (CEP)'s Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education

Principle 1

Promotes core ethical values as the basis of good character.

Principle 2

Defines "character" comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and behavior.

Principle 3

Uses a comprehensive, intentional, proactive, and effective approach to character development.

Principle 4

Creates a caring school community.

Principle 5

Provides students with opportunities for moral action.

Principle 6

Includes a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them to succeed.

Principle 7

Strives to foster students' self motivation.

Principle 8

Engages the school staff as a learning and moral community that shares responsibility for character education and attempts to adhere to the same core values that guide the education of students.

Principle 9

Fosters shared moral leadership and long range support of the character education initiative.

Principle 10

Engages families and community members as partners in the character-building effort.

Principle 11

Evaluates the character of the school, the school staff's functioning as character educators, and the extent to which students manifest good character.